

**City of San Rafael
Proclamation in Recognition of
Jewish American Heritage Month, 2023**

- WHEREAS,** Jewish Americans have been an important part of the American story and have greatly contributed to all areas of American life and culture since our nation's earliest days; and
- WHEREAS,** on April 20, 2006, the Federal Government proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month, stating, "As a nation of immigrants, the United States is better and stronger because Jewish people from all over the world have chosen to become American citizens," and, since then, proclamations in support of Jewish American Heritage Month have been made by Presidents of the United States annually; and
- WHEREAS,** Jewish Americans connect to their Jewish identity in a variety of ways, such as culturally, ethnically, religiously and by following Jewish ethics and values; and
- WHEREAS,** Jewish Americans are racially, ethnically, socially, politically and economically diverse, and around 25 percent of Bay Area Jewish households include a person of color, increasing to nearly 40 percent of households if the head of the household is younger than 35; and
- WHEREAS,** in recent years Jewish Americans faced a dramatic rise in antisemitic incidents—including but not limited to physical attacks, vandalism, verbal and physical harassment, and hateful comments posted on social media, and
- WHEREAS,** The City of San Rafael shares an obligation to condemn and combat antisemitism wherever it exists, to include Jewish Americans in all facets of civic life, and to stand with the Jewish American community against hatred or bigotry in our City and country; and
- WHEREAS,** there is a need for education and policies that are culturally competent when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts of being Jewish in all aspects of American society, including discourse and policy; and
- WHEREAS,** we celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of the Jewish American community, including those who live, work and play in San Rafael, and;
- WHEREAS,** we recognize Jewish American commitment to civic engagement and how San Rafael has been enriched by local Jewish institutions and synagogues.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of San Rafael hereby declares the month of May as Jewish American Heritage Month in appreciation of the achievements and contributions made by members of the Jewish community. The Mayor and City Council calls upon all residents to celebrate Jewish Americans who have woven the fabric of our country and community, and support opportunities to learn more about Jewish American history and culture.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that San Rafael will continue efforts to confront antisemitism and other forms of hate impacting the Jewish community, support local education about the diversity of our Jewish American community, and integrate Jewish American culture into future programs, activities, and ceremonies throughout the year.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate".

**Kate Colin
Mayor**